

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: October 22, 1999

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on October 15, 1999

FROM: William E. Munro, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Oil Spill Response, Salt Creek, Villa Park, Illinois

On October 9, 1999, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Callie Bolattino responded to a release of waste oil to a storm sewer in Villa Park, Illinois. The waste oil discharged to Salt Creek, after being deliberately washed down a storm sewer, via the storm sewer outfall. Residential complaints of odor and sheen had prompted the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to respond along with the Villa Park Fire Department. Once the responsible party refused to assume responsibility for the cleanup, the Illinois EPA requested United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) assistance in controlling the release. U.S. EPA accessed the Oil Pollution Fund and mobilized its emergency contractor to deploy skirted and absorbent boom in order to contain the spill. A Notice of Federal Interest in an Oil Pollution Incident and a Clean Water Act 308 Information Request will be issued to the responsible party who left the scene after verbally berating the initial responders and refusing to change the housekeeping practices of his business.

Contact: Callie Bolattino (312-353-3490)

Removal Administrative Order by Consent Signed, Textile Road Site, Ypsilanti Township, Michigan

On September 23, 1999, an Administrative Order by Consent was entered into by U. S. EPA, Holtzman-Silverman Realty Company, General Motors Corporation, and Ford Motor Company. The agreement is for the conduct of a non-time critical removal at the 62-acre Textile Road site in Ypsilanti Township, Michigan. The cost to cleanup the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated site is estimated to be \$1.9 million. The site was a former gravel pit used as a garbage dump. The cleanup is scheduled to begin in November 1999 and On-Scene Coordinator Partap Lall will oversee the project.

The Ypsilanti Township has approved redevelopment for the site, which is expected to be implemented once the cleanup is completed. The site is planned to be a mixed use property consisting of residential and commercial buildings. The residences are planned to be located on land that was never contaminated with PCBs.

Contacts: William Ryczek (312-886-7184)
Partap Lall (734-693-7685)
Peter Felitti (312-886-5114)

Section 122(h) Settlement Agreement Finalized, Carey Electronics Site, Springfield, Ohio

On September 27, 1999, a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) 122(h) agreement was finalized after the 30-day Federal Register comment period expired. Under the agreement, Carey Electronics and the United States Air Force agreed to pay \$85,000 and \$150,000, respectively, for the cost of the site cleanup. On September 29, 1999, Carey Electronics mailed an \$85,000 check to U.S. EPA Region 5.

The U.S. EPA was requested by the Ohio Department of Public Health to conduct a site assessment at the Carey Electronics site. U. S. EPA conducted the site assessment. Analysis of materials at the site found a number of hazardous substances, including radioactive isotopes of Ra-226, and a variety of potentially hazardous laboratory chemicals. The site cleanup is scheduled to begin in October 1999 under the direction of Steve Renninger and Jim Mitchell.

Contacts: William Ryczek (312-886-7184)
Tom Turner (312-886-6613)
Steve Renninger (513-569-7539)
Jim Mitchell (312-353-9537)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS**Fiscal Year 1999 Cost Recovery Targets & Accomplishments,
Chicago, Illinois**

The Remedial Enforcement Support Section and the Emergency Enforcement Search Section together achieved 42 accomplishments; 17 more than had been targeted. The 42 Cost Recovery accomplishments totaled \$48,894,876.

Contact: Thomas Marks (312-353-6591)

**Brownfields Assessments Conducted, West Central Municipal
Conference, La Grange and Schiller Park, Illinois**

The West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC) and the Village of LaGrange, Illinois, with money from their Brownfields Assessment & Demonstration Pilot, have conducted Phase II environmental site assessments on nine of the eleven Triangle Properties in the Village of LaGrange. Phase II environmental site assessments are still being done on two remaining properties. As of this report, the LaGrange Village Attorney is in the process of gaining access to the 2 remaining properties.

WCMC and the Village of Schiller Park, with money from their Brownfields Assessment & Demonstration Pilot, conducted some additional sampling at 3940 Willow Road in the Village of Schiller Park. The additional sampling was required based on the results of earlier sampling done in July 1999. This property has been purchased by Greenfield Partners for redevelopment.

Contact: Brooke A. Furio (312-353-2513)

Revolving Loan Cooperative Agreements Completed

In June 1999, negotiations of revolving loan cooperative agreements were completed for communities selected for funding. Communities receiving agreements in the mail include: Battle Creek, Michigan; Chicago, Illinois; Columbus, Ohio; Hennepin County, Minnesota; Wayne County, Michigan; and, the State of Illinois coalition, which includes the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and a coalition of six Illinois communities (Canton, East Moline, Freeport, Galva, Lacon, and Waukegan). These actions obligated \$6,000,000 from the Fiscal Year 1999 Brownfields budget.

Contact: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)

Flooding Assistance, U.S. EPA Region 4, North Carolina

U.S. EPA Region 5 Emergency Response Public Affairs Outreach Coordinator Ginny Narsete assisted Region 4 in the North Carolina flooding, which was declared as a disaster area after Hurricane Floyd hit the coast. The flooding covered several towns, leaving behind an environmental disaster. Ms. Narsete provided a communication strategy to Region 4. She and Pat Carey from the U.S. EPA Headquarters Community Involvement and Outreach Center provided assistance by writing press releases, fact sheets, and placing nearly 1000 flyers in the affected communities. Ms. Narsete, in describing U.S. EPA's role in the cleanup, had interviews with Associated Press, CBS, and CNN affiliates, as well as the Raleigh press. As of October 8, 1999, over 2000 containers were collected, ranging from large refinery drums to small cylinders. Region 4 remains active in the area.

Contact: Ginny Narsete (312-886-4359)

Brownsfields Grants Approved, Chicago, Illinois

U.S. EPA approved grants for the last round of Brownsfields Assessment Pilot Recipients. A small number of the pilots have sent in a Quality Assurance Project Plan which will be reviewed by Jan Pels.

Contact: Jan Pels (312-886-3009)

Revolving Loan Update Conference Call, Chicago, Illinois

On September 23, 1999, Region 5 Brownsfields's staff participated in the national call on revolving loan activities. Topics of discussion included regional updates on cooperative agreement negotiations and future funding. Participants were provided with a schedule for providing their input into the request for proposal for pilots and the administrative manual. Comments on the draft are due on October 19, 1999.

Contact: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES**Presentations, Michigan "Progress Through Unity" Conference, Thompsonville, Michigan**

On October 12-14, 1999, Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), and Virginia Narsete, Emergency Response Branch (ERB), represented U.S. EPA Region 5 at the Michigan "Progress Through Unity" conference in Thompsonville, Michigan. The purpose of the conference was to bring together emergency responders, planners, government officials, and vendors to discuss recent response actions, future initiatives, new technologies, and exchange information and ideas. Some 300 firefighters, first responders, and State police attended the training. Nearly 100 courses were given on topics, including counter terrorism, hazardous material releases, HAZMAT decision making, and chemical toxicology. Ms. Narsete spoke on how to handle mass casualties and community media affairs. Mr. Cekus presented the annual Regional Response Team Certificate of Recognition awards to two Local Emergency Planning Committees and the J-Mar Publishing Company for their Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know related achievements and initiatives during the last year.

Contacts: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)
Virginia Narsete (312-886-4359)

Associated General Contractors of America Meeting, Chicago, Illinois

On September 30, 1999, Joseph Dufficy spoke on the history and implementation of the Brownfields Program to the Associated General Contractors of America at their annual meeting in Chicago. The audience, mostly general contractors with some environmental consultants, were skeptical. While not overly negative, the 10-15 percent of the audience who had worked on brownfields sites felt that a higher level of interaction with environmental agencies was needed. A good number of the contractors felt that U.S. EPA and its State counterparts need to develop more of a professional, customer-service approach. In general, Illinois and Pennsylvania received high marks; California, Maryland and Virginia less so. A contractor from North Dakota stated that he and a number of contractors from the plains were only vaguely aware of the topic. He had approached his State to work on a closed landfill, but was put off by the unresolved liability and the inability of "the government" to allow him to re-engineer an effective cap. Most in attendance indicated that greenfield development would continue to be their preference until "government" was more approachable.

Contact: Joseph Dufficy (312-886-1960)

Indiana Emergency Response Commission Program Review,

Indianapolis, Indiana

On October 13, 1999, Cheryl McIntyre and Silvia Palomo, from the Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), met with Indiana State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) representatives and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) in Indianapolis, Indiana. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the activities conducted by the Indiana State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) as part of the implementation of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), and the activities conducted by IDEM to inform the industry about Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act. These activities include outreach, compliance assistance, enforcement, training, coordination with the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), and exercise of the EPCRA plans. A complete report will be prepared addressing all the issues discussed during the meeting.

Contacts: Silvia Palomo (312-353-2172)
Cheryl McIntyre (312-886-1964)

Financial Records Examination and Analysis Training, Chicago, Illinois

During the week of October 4-8, 1999, Margaret Herring and Lance Vlcek attended a five-day training course on Financial Records Examination & Analysis conducted by the National White Collar Crime Center. Criminal and Civil Investigators from various Federal, State and local agencies attended. The training demonstrated databases that conduct financial analysis. Other demonstrations illustrated methods of constructing graphics that show movement of assets; interrelationships among individuals and businesses; and, chronologies. These package programs will be used in the Remedial Enforcement Support Section (RESS). Items gleaned from these demonstrations will be used by RESS to improve a new scope of work for transactional databases. Of particular interest to the U.S. EPA Civil Investigators were methods used to block U.S. EPA procedures designed to locate assets.

Contact: Margaret Herring (312-886-6239)

Presentation, ATC Associates Inc., Chicago, Illinois

On September 23, 1999, at the invitation of ATC Associates, Inc. (ATC), Brooke A. Furio gave a 45 minute presentation about U.S. EPA's Brownfields Program. ATC is a national leader in the environmental consulting field. The associates of ATC gathered from regional offices throughout the country to discuss

Brownfields cleanup and community revitalization, as well as other business. The conference took place at the Claridge Hotel in Chicago.

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